TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 18, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 13 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 4.6 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 15 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 254.4 billion ton-miles, down 4.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 13 totaled 381,045, down 6.9 percent from last year, but 4.7 percent higher than the preceding week, which included Good Friday. Compared with last year, loadings were down 9.5 percent in the East, 2.4 percent in the South and 7.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 18 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up by 1,910 cars (17.4 percent). Fourteen of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 6 totaled 83,703 trailers and/or containers, 7.5 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 14 weeks of the year was 1,168,971 trailers and/or containers, down 4.4 percent from 1984.

The figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/13/85:

	Loadings in Week ended April 13, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,946	D	7,660	26.8	I	671	3.3
Other farm products	3,481	D	954	21.5	I	588	20.3
Metallic ores	13,210	D	4,785	26.6	D	450	3.3
Coal	118,355	D	1,713	1.4	I	10,952	10.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,867	I	1,910	17.4	I	126	1.0
Nonmetallic minerals	10,415	D	528	4.8	I	1,308	14.4
Grain mill products	10,217	D	288	2.7	I	1,014	11.0
Food and kindred products	10,980	D	220	2.0	I	157	1.5
Primary forest products	11,939	D	2,365	16.5	I	109	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,291	D	324	4.3	I	811	12.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,894	D	538	3.7	D	27	0.1
Chemicals and allied products	26,228	D	139	0.5	I	1,503	6.1
Petroleum products	4,698	D	442	8.6	I	571	13.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,469	I	156	1.4	I	779	7.3
Coke	5,222	D	317	5.7	D	62	1.2
Metals and products	8,840	D	1,691	16.1	D	158	1.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,932	I	133	0.6	I	1,599	8.3
Waste and scrap materials	9,238	D	1,300	12.3	I	699	8.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,040	D	1,460	19.5	D	249	4.0
All other carloads	54,664	D	5,749	9.5	D	2,894	5.0
LCL traffic	119	D	151	55.9	D	12	9.2
Total Cars Loaded	381,045	D	28,425	6.9	I	17,035	4.7
Corresponding week of 1984	409,470						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (15 weeks)	5,508,751	5,855,960	D 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
14 Weeks ended April 6	237.0	249.0	D 4.8
Week ended April 13	17.4	18.2	D 4.6
15 weeks cumulative	254.4	267.2	D 4.8

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